

April 2020



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

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## Niobrara County FSA Updates

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### Niobrara County FSA Office

905 South Main Street  
PO Box 720  
Lusk, WY 82225

Phone: (307) 334-2953, Ext. 2  
Fax: (855) 415-3433

### County Executive

#### Director:

Laura Kessler

### Program Technician:

Kimberly Nusbaum

### Farm Loan Manager:

Dixie Mount  
(307) 322-4050

### County Committee:

Jason ZumBrunnen

### Niobrara County Notes

Greetings Niobrara County Farmers and Ranchers!

We hope that you and your family are safe and healthy. This has definitely been a challenging time for everyone. We just wanted to touch base and share with you how we are conducting daily business for the time being. Please read the article below for more details.

There are a few other program reminders worth mentioning. An article highlighted in our paper newsletter, that should be hitting your mailbox soon, is about the Conservation Reserve Program – Grasslands (CRPG). If you are interested in more information or would like to submit an offer, please contact our office as soon as possible as the deadline to submit your offer is May 15, 2020. Niobrara County does fall into at least one priority zone that is eligible for some additional points when an offer is submitted. Both native pastures and introduced grasses can be offered. If accepted, the payment rate is \$4.00 per acre, with cost share for fencing and water development available.

The other deadlines that are approaching are the 2020 ARC/PLC sign-up that will end June 30, 2020 and the spring crop reporting deadline is July 15, 2020. These dates seem quite distant from now, but they will be here before you know it. Please stay safe and healthy and we are looking forward to when we can see you all again in person. If you need anything at all, please

Joe Kruse  
Kurt Gaukel

call the office or send us an email. We will be happy to help with anything that you need!

Carol Geisinger, COC Advisor

**Please note the following important dates and deadlines:**

**Next County Committee Meeting:** TBD

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Deadline to submit CRPG offer

May 25<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED – Memorial Day

June 30<sup>th</sup> – Deadline to enroll 2020 ARC/PLC contracts

July 15<sup>th</sup> – Spring seeded & perennial crop reporting deadline 2020

Within 15 days of noticing crop loss – File NAP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of noticing livestock loss – File LIP Notice of Loss

Within 30 days of livestock feed or pasture losses/issues due to extreme weather – File ELAP Notice of Loss

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## USDA Service Centers Open for Business by Phone Appointment Only

U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Centers are encouraging visitors to take precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Niobrara County USDA Service Center will continue to be open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with our producers by phone, and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service are required to call to schedule a phone appointment.

Niobrara County USDA Service Center: **(307) 334-2953**

Farm Service Agency: Ext. 2

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Ext. 3

Employees may also be contacted by email at the following email address:

Laura Kessler, FSA – [laura.kessler@usda.gov](mailto:laura.kessler@usda.gov)

Kimberly Nusbaum, FSA – [kimberly.nusbaum@usda.gov](mailto:kimberly.nusbaum@usda.gov)

Clint Anderson, NRCS – [clint.anderson@usda.gov](mailto:clint.anderson@usda.gov)

Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account, which provides access to the [farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) portal where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the [Conservation Client Gateway](#). Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at [farmers.gov/sign-in](https://farmers.gov/sign-in).

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center status visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

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## MAL and LDP Policy

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs).

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help them meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. Marketing loan provisions and LDPs are not available for sugar and extra-long staple cotton.

FSA is now accepting requests for 2019 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

Commodity certificates are available to loan holders who have outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oilseeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan. MALs redeemed with commodity certificates are not subject to Adjusted Gross Income provisions.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form [CCC-633EZ, Page 1](#) on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested.

Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant rules.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) provisions state that a producer whose total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. Producers must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange.

For more information and additional eligibility requirements, please contact your USDA Service Center or FSA's website [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

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## USDA Offers Targeted Farm Loan Funding for Underserved Groups and Beginning Farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers that FSA offers targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to

95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit [fsa.usda.gov/microloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/microloans).

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](https://fsa.usda.gov/farmloans).

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Laura Kessler at 307-334-2953 extension 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).